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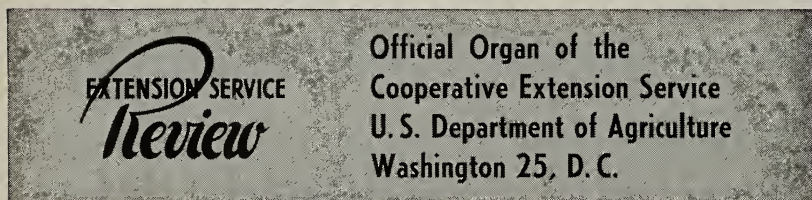
EXTENSION SERVICE

Review

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Ear to the Ground

• Storms and floods continue in the news. Stories of what agents are doing to help troubled families caught in a Midwestern tornado, a Nevada blizzard, or the Great Father of Waters on a rampage, make exciting reading. Extension workers not only help at the height of the emergency but give continued assistance in the difficult rehabilitation which lies ahead.

• Human interest items punctuate reports. County Agent Short closed his community meeting of some 75 persons in the schoolhouse in Decatur County, Tenn., about 10 p.m. An hour later the tornado completely demolished the meeting place.

• Nevada ranchers riding the military planes on "Operation Haylift" found it difficult to locate their snow-covered fields from the vantage point of the bird. But they did, and the hay was dropped to save starving cattle and sheep. It was hard to find the hay; some had to be brought 700 or 800 miles.

• County Agent James of Pemiscot County, Mo., writes, "It would do anybody good to see how wonderfully the neighbors are pitching in with trucks, tractors, and gangs of volunteer men to clean up and rebuild."

• In spite of such set-backs, defense food and feed goals still need to be met. With little prospect of planting more acres, leaders are thinking of other means. Dr. Byron T. Shaw, in this issue says the real opportunity is in more efficiency.

• It has been estimated that if the feed crops now going to insects, rats, and other pests were saved, the goals would be met. Watch next month for Extension Entomologist M. P. Jones's review of some of the hurdles to be met in salvaging this grain.

• Glancing through the features scheduled for next month, we find, the first printed account of the New England pilot project on extension work with young men and women; County Agent Lucien Paquette's estimate of the public relations program of one of his colleagues in Massachusetts; an account of a Dutch home economist in Nebraska; and a Washington home demonstration agent on her way to India.

Stopping the Prairie Winds

CONSERVATION history will be made in Nicollet County, Minn., this spring when the 45,000 of 80,000 trees are planted in shelterbelts. The first 35,000 were planted last spring.

When completed, the shelterbelts will protect more than 3,000 acres of farmland on the north, west, and south sides of the county seat, St. Peter. If placed "end to end," these belts would stretch for nearly 10 miles, varying in depth. Some 30 farmers are involved in the project.

The idea for this big planting was born 6 years ago among a small group of farmers. At the request of these farmers, County Agent Fred Wetherill called a meeting to discuss the idea. At a later meeting, Parker Anderson, extension forester at the University of Minnesota, was called in.

In fact, there were several meetings of farmers before the project got into actual operation — meetings of all the farmers in the county who were interested, meetings of farmers in local areas, meetings with the county agent and without him, and meetings with Forester Anderson and without him.

At the early meetings, a thorough educational job was done. The importance and essentials of good wind-breaks and how they would help the farmers and the city of St. Peter were pointed out.

A skeleton plan for the project was drawn up, and the farmers agreed to go in for shelterbelt planting on a voluntary basis in order to protect their own and other farms from the ravages of the wind. Part of the preparation for the project was to plot the whole area for which protection was desired. The location of belts and number of trees needed for



Operating the tree-planting machine in Nicollet County, Minn.

each farm was carefully determined before actual work got under way.

Trees were planted on or near the borders of fields. No fields were broken up, but were left at a desirable size for modern farming.

The rows of the trees in these shelterbelts run east and west and north and south, to break the force of northwest winds in the winter and the south and west winds in the summer.

Varieties being planted include spruce, northern pine, elm, ash, and, for fast growth, caragana and cottonwood. The cottonwood will be removed when the slower growing species are large enough.

Trees were obtained at cost by the farmers from the State nursery at Willow River. Costs of the seedlings ranged from 0.8 cents to 1 cent each.

When the planting got under way, Extension Foresters Anderson and Marvin Smith came out from University Farm, St. Paul, to help. It took 2½ days to plant the 35,000 trees last spring. Three tractor-mounted tree-planting machines were used.

In 10 years, predicts Anderson, you will hardly recognize this part of Nicollet County. In fact, says the extension forester, good effects of the planting should be noticeable in 5 years. Benefits, in addition to the beauty of the matured plantings, will include the reduction of soil blowing, the catching and holding of snow until its moisture can be utilized by crops, and cutting the velocity of the cold winter wind.

It will all add up to a better economic position for the area's farmers and a more comfortable place in which to live.

Study Inflation

What women can do about inflation is one of the problems up for discussion this year by some 45,000 rural women in Minnesota. Local leaders in the 2,800 organized women's extension groups are getting training in conducting discussion on inflation from county home demonstration agents and extension specialists.



County Agent Ed Atkins of Madison and Jefferson Counties talks with ranchers about a range grass exhibit.

A Grass Caravan

"GRASS AND PEOPLE" was the theme of a grasslands caravan of exhibits that toured 25 of Montana's 56 counties during February under the sponsorship of the Montana Extension Service as a means of stimulating renewed interest among farm and ranch people in making the best possible use of grasses and legumes.

Transported in a panel truck, the caravan consisted of eight exhibits that pointed up the many uses that may be made of grasses and legumes in the various types of farming and ranching operations that are found in Montana. Included were exhibits on irrigated pastures, forage uses, range management, grasslands and conservation, forage preservation, poultry on pasture, grass, and human nutrition.

One feature of the show was a farm-planning contest in which visitors had an opportunity to lay out a complete crops, livestock, and irrigation plan for a model farm displayed in the irrigation exhibit. Cash prizes for the contest were provided by the Montana Reclamation Association

and the four sugar beet refining companies in the State.

The caravan had to buck one of the most severe Februarys in years with below zero temperature and snow-drifted roads. Yet in spite of the weather the 20 showings brought out 4,794 people. Just four showings were canceled because of snow-blocked roads and severe cold.

Preparation for the grassland caravan began months before it was held. An important feature in the show's success was the advance publicity given to it. A kit of four fill-in type news stories was sent to county agents a month before the date of the showing and a similar kit of radio talks, describing the various exhibits in the show, was sent in advance and used extensively. Photographer Russ Wilson and Herb White, assistant editor, attended the first show, sending pictures and stories immediately to State farm papers and Sunday feature sections of daily papers. The press of the State was most cooperative in handling the material and contributed much to the success of the grasslands caravan.

The Cherokee Story

The Cherokee Story, a presentation of the accomplishments of Tennessee's champion rural community, is being told far and wide since the Grainger County community earned its top-place ranking in the State.

During the first 2 months of this year, community leaders presented their story to more than 15 other communities, civic clubs, and other organizations.

Cherokee tells its story with the help of color slides picturing every phase of community work, leadership, and cooperation. Each presentation is made by a different group of community leaders, each leader selecting from the community's collection of slides those he feels will tell best the phase of the story assigned to him.

As a result of the increasing flood of requests, the sponsors of the Grainger County community improvement program are arranging a filmstrip with recorded sound of "The Cherokee Story." This filmstrip will be available to communities, civic clubs, and other groups interested in improving rural living through organized effort.

Civic clubs and other organizations sponsoring the community improvement program, as well as other rural communities wanting new ideas for their own improvement work, are having top communities present programs at their regular meetings for better understanding of the purposes and results of the improvement program.

"Cherokee, as State champion, has perhaps had the largest number of such requests, but prize-winning communities in other areas, such as Mason Hall, West Tennessee champion; Sango, middle Tennessee first-place winner; Griffith, Chattanooga area winner; and top communities in all counties taking part in the work, also can present effective programs of community achievement to interested groups," points out Eugene Gambill, extension community improvement specialist in Tennessee.

Farm Shows Carry a Message

FOR the third successive year, South Dakotans have expressed their unqualified approval of the traveling winter exhibits bringing to them the latest on agriculture and homemaking. It began with the successful "Farming in the '50's" described in the June 1950 Extension Service Review. The next year it was "Family Farming in '51" which furnished the timely theme for a practical and popular series of exhibits. These two shows were put on in 63 places and drew a total of 53,500 people. The interest snowballed and this year there was even more demand for something of the sort in '52. Sampling the opinions of county

and State extension workers, farmers, homemakers, business and professional men, organizations, and agencies resulted in a series of exhibits which made up the show "Fortified Farming in Fifty Two."

The series of 12 booths was scheduled to make 27 stops during January and February. Nine had to be canceled because of severe weather and snow-blocked roads. At each booth, a specialist explained the exhibit and answered questions from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Total attendance this winter was 11,829, an average of 623. Three showings had more than a thousand in attendance, the best being 1,468.

"Fortified Farming" was dedicated to helping farmers and homemakers prevent waste in their preparation for high-priced world defense, to produce a maximum of food, feed, and fiber as efficiently as possible for increased needs, and at the same time keep constant vigilance in the conservation of our natural and physical resources, with health and well-being of the entire family kept in the foreground.

Milo A. Potas, extension designer and artist, planned and supervised construction of the booths in the college shop and helped with models and demonstrations planned by the specialists. The most successful show with the largest attendance was in

the places where the agent had done a good job of advance publicity.

The State was pretty well covered by the two shows in '50 and '51. Practically all counties with facilities that wanted the show had an opportunity to get either "Farming in the '50's" or "Family Farming." In 1952 the 26 showings were planned so that this year and next year the State would again be covered. This year the show centered on crops with the thought that the 1953 exhibits might feature livestock if it is decided to continue the series. "Fortified Farming" was larger and more complete than the exhibits of previous years. In some places local crop shows were an excellent supplement to the college exhibits and added to the interest and drawing power of the event.

A sponsoring committee in each county promoted interest and made all arrangements. Home demonstration leaders, 4-H leaders, SCS and PMA representatives, as well as local farm organization leaders, took an active part in the sponsoring committees. Subcommittees on finances and publicity; a working committee to do the unloading, setting up and reloading; and an information committee to supply bulletins and take orders for other information attended to the business end of putting on the show.

Among the advance material furnished agents to aid them in building up interest in the event were cartoon mats, advertising posters, suggested newspaper and radio stories and sample newspaper ads. A 16-page, printed summary folder was supplied for each visitor to take home for future reference. The folder contained the same messages as given in the exhibits. A theme based on the needs and wants of the people, careful planning and good follow-up, were the secret of the success of the South Dakota farm show "Fortified Farming in Fifty Two."

To Build Exhibit Hall

Searcy County's (Ark.) home demonstration clubs are uniting in a new project this year. They are planning to build a women's and girls' exhibit hall on the county fairgrounds, reports Mrs. Ovaline McEntire, county home demonstration agent.



President John Headley of the South Dakota State College studies the graphic picture of balance in the family meal under the tutelage of Mrs. Kay Nelson, food specialist, at the opening show when rain, snow, and ice in Madison limited attendance but not enthusiasm.

A Better Job on the Job

ELTON LUX

Supervisor, Subject-Matter Materials, Nebraska College of Agriculture

TO QUOTE from the Smith-Lever Act, "In order to aid in diffusing among the people of the United States (the county agents of Nebraska) useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage the application of the same—," the Nebraska Extension Service has been encouraging its staff to take additional courses of study leading to a "Certificate of Professional Improvement" offered by the College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska.

Two men will be candidates for the certificates in June 1952. About half of the staff have earned some credit toward it. Ninety-three scholarships have been granted since the summer of 1949, most of them for work toward the certificate. Only five of those receiving scholarships have left the staff.

Minimum requirements are 20 hours of university credit while employed in the Extension Service, including at least 8 hours on the university campus at Lincoln; one summer school at Wisconsin, Colorado, Cornell, or Arkansas; 4 years of service in Nebraska summarized in a report; and a field study of extension methods in their own counties. The credits may be of undergraduate or graduate level. Courses taken must be approved as "useful and practical" to agents who want professional improvement on the job. The University offers some special courses which are arranged for convenience of the extension staff, and also gives a county agent 3 weeks' leave to study with pay.

The latest development in this training program was a 20-day arranged school held on the campus at Lincoln from January 2 to 25, 1952. Thirty-two agricultural agents began to plan for it last September by telling the folks at home "We won't be

here in January." They came in to Lincoln to attend one course each forenoon and another course each afternoon for 20 days to get 4 hours' credit.

The teaching departments on the campus offered the instruction in four courses, and each agent took his choice of two. In engineering, the course was restricted to irrigation only. John Schrunck, college instructor, was the teacher. John Steele, extension engineer, helped him, especially with class discussion and application to problems in the field.

In animal husbandry, Professor William J. Loeffel, chairman of the department, organized a general course and called on his staff to teach it. Extension Specialists K. C. Fouts and Dr. S. W. Alford helped here also. In soils, Dr. M. D. Weldon and Wilber Ringler, extension specialists, were general directors of the course, and most of the teaching and research staff took their respective parts of the course instruction.

The fourth course was a combina-

tion of photography and visual aids taught by Ray Morgan of the school of journalism and Dr. James Taylor of the department of audio visual aids. The agents spent about half the time in demonstrations and laboratory work. At the end, they said they could have used a full 20 periods on either part of the course.

Agents were asked what use they would make of what they received. Several of them had tentative programs in mind, and all of them knew how they could use the information in their personal contacts. Instructors said the agents were a challenging group as students. One man said he thought he learned to do a better job of teaching, and in another department, the staff planned a conference to revise their present teaching methods. The arranged courses will be offered again in 1953.

Several Nebraska extension staff members have been working toward advanced degrees in extension or subject-matter fields. In most cases, they are either improving their qualifications as administrators or specialists, or planning to change work and responsibilities. There seems to be no great conflict between the objective of the course work toward the certificate of professional improvement and that leading to a master's or doctor's degree. The first is improvement on the job as a county agent, the second has generally led to a change from county extension work to something else.



Some of Nebraska's county agents who attended the University of Nebraska for a month's refresher course, are getting the latest information on irrigation research from Extension Engineer John C. Steele.

What I Want From the Agronomist

County Agent Ralph C. McWilliams, Franklin County, Vt., looks at the specialist job from his vantage point much as the specialists looked at the county agent job in the November issue. This statement is based on a talk to extension agronomists at their annual meeting.

THE FIRST step in discussing what

I, as a county agent, expect of an extension agronomist might be to make sure that we have a definition of extension work that will serve as a basis. Here is a definition that I found recently that appeals very much to me, and it is this: "Extension work is to keep people informed as to scientific developments and the result of practical experience applicable to the operation and effective maintenance of the Nation's farms and homes." I like that definition because it clearly divides extension work into the two essential parts. First, the part that has to do with the scientific approach; and second, the very important part of making use of practical experience.

First of all, I expect an extension agronomist to know his subject. When he comes to the county to talk over projects with me or to take part in meetings, I want to be sure that he is well versed in his subject matter and able to discuss it clearly without needing to pass over too many questions for more investigation in discussions between the two of us or with farmers.

Second, I expect the agronomist to keep up with the research, both at home and abroad, that may apply to the problems in my particular county. I happen to be working in a county where forage crops are the most important thing that we grow. Then I am interested in pasture plants, their management, the making of grass

silage, the fertilization, and the disease resistance of plants, and in all the different ways that these can be used to supply the maximum amount and the highest quality roughage for our livestock.

Third, I want the extension agronomist to educate me as to the new developments in crop production as are applicable to my county. Such things as soil tests, the soil varieties, classifications and their possibilities, and the conditions on our farms under which some crops would be of greater value than others in the complete farm management operation. I need his help and guidance to me in applying the science of agronomy to the art of farming.

And fourth, I need the extension agronomist to attend a certain number of meetings or tours in the county during the year both for purposes of bringing information and to furnish some of the atmosphere that helps to impress the importance of the meeting on those who attend. Assisting me as an expert or as an authority is a very essential part of the help that I need from an extension agronomist in my work.

Then there are also four points on the side of evaluating the results of practical experience of the farm people of the county in developing a broader and more satisfactory agronomy program. To do this the extension agronomist must, first of all, know the general farm situation in the county. He must have been in

the county often enough, traveled over it with me, and studied it sufficiently so that any recommendation or suggestions made to me or to farm people in the county would be practical and applicable to my county.

Next, I want the extension agronomist to appreciate the relative importance of the agronomy program in the total agricultural situation of the county. I want him to feel his responsibility in being one of the team of workers whose combined assistance in the over-all farm management program will raise the level of the agriculture of the county.

Then, too, I want the extension agronomist to be broad-minded enough to see and appreciate the importance of the practical experimental work that so many farmers carry on on their own initiative, and I want the extension agronomist to see this as a vital part of research work and to help me to interpret it and to evaluate it along with other scientific research. There is a vast store of experimental work carried on by farmers that all too often is passed over because it does not bear the stamp of approved research.

As the fourth point on the practical side, I want the extension agronomist to be able and willing to interpret his scientific facts in farmer language, to put it into words and terms that are readily understood by farm people so that at meetings, on tours, and through printed material they do not become confused in trying to interpret scientific terms into their everyday thoughts.

Finally, there is one other need that I have for an extension agronomist, and in this respect the extension agronomist is no different than any other specialist, and that is, at times, to sit down with me and just have a good, old-fashioned "gab-fest" wherein we may cover many subjects and work out a rational approach to the whole crop production problem of the county. So, to go back to the original definition—I expect an extension agronomist to inform me as to scientific developments and to rationalize the results of practical farm experience in a way that will inspire me to get farmers to practice good agronomy on their farms.

Finding and Working With

Neighbor Groups

Second in a series of articles on neighbor groups by E. J. NIEDERFRANK, Extension Sociologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Leaders from a few neighbor groups on a field trip. About 75 neighbor groups and leaders are being worked with in this county.

ONE WAY to work on finding "natural neighbor groups and leaders" is to get the information needed during regular farm and home visits or in connection with any of your usual contacts with rural people. The main thing is to identify the leaders or key neighbors. A few visits and observations will give clues as to who they are. Then you can check with them your information as to who the other group members are.

A pocket notebook on which to record the information as it is gained by talking about home and community activities is useful. Extension agents are schooled in the art of listening and if the facts gained in these conversations are recorded, the rough outline of groups and leaders will begin to shape up. There will be clues as to who are the leaders among the people and how the families tend to group themselves when engaged in certain activities.

Another good practice is to jot down the names of those you see together at meetings or in town. Your office secretary can help by visiting with the folks as they come into the office to ask for farm or home information. Church pastors, local bankers, feed dealers or other such persons will be able to give helpful information. Frequently they can give good suggestions as to who the leaders or key persons might be in differ-

ent parts of the community. Once you have a leader spotted he can tell you quickly the other members of his group.

An informal exchange of information with other agencies interested in working with neighbor groups repays your effort. Group associations and leadership patterns are of the people. They are determined by the way the people live and an accurate knowledge of the grouping is equally useful to any agency working with these people.

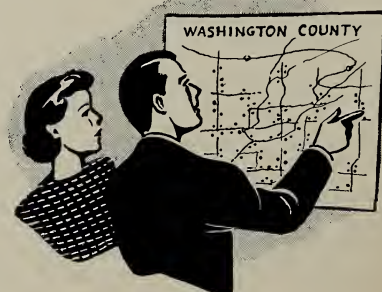
A common practice in recording the neighbor groups and leaders as they are determined is to plot them on a map of the county. Other agents find it better to keep a list of the groups and leaders with plenty of space to note changes in membership and progress in development of the leaders and groups. It will take constant checking and revising to keep the list current and accurate.

It isn't necessary to work on the whole county at once. As a starter, take an area or a group of people who have not been participating in the extension program. In planning some home visits to get better acquainted, get the information about neighbor groups and leaders at the same time. If you want to work with neighbor groups on some intensive program such as farm planning, it might be a good idea to identify the

leaders just ahead of the time when you are actually going to be working with them. If you have in mind using neighbor groups and leaders in the general extension education involving a variety of programs, it would be better to locate as many as you can and work them into your total extension organization for planning and carrying out the program as soon as you can.

When the groups and leaders have been identified and recorded, work with them informally and do not treat them as an organization. Avoid referring to the key persons in public as "leaders," or to something they are doing as a "demonstration." Work with them informally both as individuals and groups of two or more in meetings at their own homes or in a little tour over their farm. Later you can get some of the lead-

(Continued on page 86)





Boys making decisions on topsoil and subsoil in land-judging contest. They are marking up their placings.

Land-Judging Contest Goes National

LAND-JUDGING contests and land appreciation training schools started in Oklahoma 11 years ago, were launched as a national contest in Oklahoma City the first 2 days of May. These soil-judging events described by Edd Roberts, Oklahoma's extension soil conservationist in the REVIEW of July 1950 have been adopted by several other States with modifications to meet their own needs.

An Oklahoma City farm radio director conceived the idea of holding the land-judging schools or contests on a national basis and received a good response from businessmen and agricultural workers. The contest was open to three teams from each State, a 4-H Club team, a Future Farmers of America team, and an adult team. Each team was composed of three land judges. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Extension Service, the State Vocational Agriculture Department, Soil Conservation Service, State Department of Agriculture, and other agricultural agencies and groups, as well as the radio station, the contest involved almost everyone interested in agricultural education.

The first land-appreciation training school and land-judging contest was held at the Red Plains Conservation Experiment Station at Guthrie, Okla. The boards of supervisors of soil conservation districts in Oklahoma have sponsored the contests and soil scientists of the Soil Conservation Service have served as judges in making the official placings.

"The idea of land-judging contests was patterned after the livestock-judging contests which have glamorized the livestock business through judging contests and shows," says Mr. Roberts who has trained 40,000 people in land-judging and land-appreciation schools in the past 4 years.

"Briefly the system calls for participants to judge four different fields or pieces of land. They walk about it, examine the contour, top soil, and slope. They judge the texture of the soil, which means the size of the soil particles and amount of clay it in. They pick up samples of the soil, and look at it for permeability of subsoil, the toughness, or ability for air and water to filter in.

They squat around a hole which has been spaded into the ground down through the top soil, and examine it for depth of the soil. This determines root penetration, the capacity of the soil to hold water and plant food, just as boys are taught to look for plenty of capacity in the barrel of a good dairy cow. They look at the amount of slope, determine how much erosion has occurred, the drainage condition of the soil and finally, determine the land class, or catalog it according to its capability.

All of these factors are sized up, the contestants make their decisions and check them on sheets of paper with multiple answers, and they are scored, much as a livestock judging team is scored. The highest scores determine the winners.

The soil-judging tournament in Nebraska as described by Fred H. Schultz in the October 1951 REVIEW was an outgrowth of Edd Roberts' idea. The "soil rodeos" of Oklahoma and Texas are other modifications of the same educational plan. Those who have tried it are enthusiastic about the results.

Hans W. Hochbaum

Extension lost one of its stalwart leaders in the death of H. W. Hochbaum, former Chief of the Division of Field Coordination, National Extension Service, on February 4.

Mr. Hochbaum's extension career, begun as a county agent in Ada County, Idaho, in 1913, contributed much to the development of scientific educational approaches in extension programing. He was a firm supporter of the 4-H Club program and encouraged the development of health facilities for rural areas at a time when little was being done in this field. He was identified with many of the outstanding educational phases of this program. His accomplishments as chairman of the United States Government Victory Garden Committee during the Second World War helped to enlist millions of home gardeners. He conducted summer-term graduate courses for extension workers at Utah State Agricultural College, Cornell University, University of Vermont, and Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Time for Camping Draws Near

DOROTHY P. FLINT, 4-H Club Agent, Nassau County, N. Y.

PLAN EARLY — 4-H Camp plans take form early. On Christmas Day I answered the telephone on "when does girls' camp open this year?" Last summer 523 girls attended camp, about 130 girls each week. Recommendations made by counselors and directors last July were brought together by the 4-H Club agents and presented to the executive committee. Camp fees were established in December and a camp budget set up. Plans to provide an athletic field, nature museum, four sleeping cabins, and a vesper knoll overlooking Long Island Sound are being worked out by the camp committee and 4-H agents.

Camp is divided into three separate units to take care of three age groups:

(1) A Junior Unit for 8- and 9-year-olds which accommodates 20 girls and 5 counselors was established last year. It proved very satisfactory. These youngsters join the other campers in vespers, crafts, dramatics, and swimming but have their own cabins, dining hall, recreation, and evening programs. In this way the younger campers have their own program and activities, early taps, longer rest, and meal periods.

(2) A Pioneer Unit has offered older girls an experience in democratic living for 2 years. Here girls have a chance to develop their own initiative, to cooperate with others, sharing in every daily task. Campers are given an opportunity to learn out-of-door cooking, to use handaxe and jack knife, how to chop wood, build fires, plan, prepare, and cook for a group of 14 people. If one girl doesn't perform her specific function the whole unit doesn't function smoothly (maybe they don't eat.) Tasks are designated on a daily chart. Each week at Pioneer Unit girls give demonstrations for other campers, and on Sundays for parents. They dem-

onstrate blanket roll, reflector oven, building cooking fire, and making out-of-door cooking equipment, broilers, and ovens. The P.U. girls assist the camp tribes who go on cook-outs and overnight sleep-outs. They cook breakfast and supper on an open fireplace and eat dinner at the main camp. The Pioneer Unit constructed, erected, and painted a mail box, built a shower by lashing five poles, covering with beech leaves, and using a rubber hose.

This season we plan to improve the dining and dishwashing shelter and add one more sleeping cabin, still keeping the Pioneer Unit small and primitive. We have trained older girls as junior counselors for this unit but it is very important to secure two senior counselors, college girls, who are good with teen-age girls, thoroughly trustworthy and skilled in outdoor living.

(3) The Main Camp accommodates 85 girls 10 to 12 years old and a staff of 20 counselors. Cabins always need repairs, floors, foundations, screens

get worn out, wash houses need improvement, kitchen equipment must be checked in all 3 units, as well as dishes and cots.

Our program plan and staff are directly related. We cannot offer out-of-door cooking or carpentry unless we have trained, enthusiastic counselors who can teach outdoor cooking and carpentry. We try to get a staff of 20 trained people as follows:

4 outdoor-living counselors (girls who can cook out and carry packs)

1 waterfront director and 2 counselors

2 carpentry counselors (girls who can teach how to build shoe racks, door racks, bookshelves and lamps)

1 recreation director who can teach folk dancing

2 cooks and 1 or 2 assistant cooks who can teach 4-H cooking units

1 first-aid person, 1 vesper counselor

2 painting counselors and 3 general counselors for crafts or nature.

Use our own 4-H people with 4-H background as counselors—4-H leaders, former 4-H members, and executive committee people make good camp staff members. Counselors who have a good 4-H background help promote 4-H ideals. Try to get some 4-H counselors from another county or State (they bring a new point of view).

Introduce international interest.

(Continued on page 86)



Pioneer Unit girls demonstrate the blanket roll for other campers. On Sundays they give this and other demonstrations for parents.



Louis Bornman

THE JOB OF THE COUNTY AGENT

Two more agents give their ideas on extension work

IT'S THE SAME OLD JOB

LOUIS BORNMAN

County Agricultural Agent
East Baton Rouge Parish, La.

THE JOB of the county agents today is essentially the same as it was at the time the Smith-Lever Act was passed; to disseminate useful and practical information to farm people and to encourage its application. The rapid progress in the technology of agricultural production in the past 10 or 20 years is some indication of the rapidity with which these improved practices have been adopted by farm people. The land-grant colleges, with their research and teaching, including the county agricultural agent system, have played a large part in this stepped-up agricultural efficiency.

The farmer, I find, still wants and needs all types of technical information on practically every type of farm problem that he faces. The county agent must continue to be able to supply the *answers*, drawing from the background of his own study and experience or depending on the subject-matter specialists and their publications. Information still is one of the farmer's greatest needs.

True enough, recent times with their stepped-up governmental activity generally, have made it necessary that the county agent give more attention to public relationship problems but these should be engaged in primarily to add strength to the main purpose for his existence; pro-

viding technical information. With the urban population becoming a larger and larger percentage of the total population, it is becoming more essential that these city people understand the great contribution made by the farm people and the county agent to their everyday lives.

The development of many types of rural organizations admittedly is a part of the work of the county agent because organizations are necessary in our complicated social and political system if farm people are to maintain their place in the competitive system. County agents can and should assist in forming and guiding these organizations, but here again these activities should be engaged in primarily to strengthen the program of supplying technical "know-how" to farmers.

THE AGENT IS A CONDUCTOR

DONALD C. WHITEMAN

Associate County Agricultural Agent,
Delaware County, N. Y., now on leave
for study at Colorado A.&M. College.

IN YOUR LEAD to the article "The Specialist Looks to the County Agent," November 1951, you quoted a specialist as putting it, "We are interested in the county agent's job as the spigot on the specialist's barrel of knowledge." I think this specialist has a pretty lop-sided idea of the county agent's job.

I prefer to think of the county agent as the conductor on the "farmer's tour to fulfill his desires." He is continually passing the desires of the farm people to the college research workers and specialists through his county program and plan of work and his monthly and yearly reports.

The research workers find the answers to the problems and the specialist gets them back to the county

agent. He in turn passes the information on to a grateful farmer who will use it because he has asked for it.

To me the success and wide acceptance of the land-grant colleges and universities and the Extension Service is the result of their staying close to the farm people. The county agent in the past has made a supreme effort to see that this close relationship did exist. The present and future county agents will have to work even harder to preserve this purely American way.

Home Demonstration Leader Appointed at University of Maryland

Mrs. Florence Wilkinson Low of College Station, Tex., is the new home demonstration leader in Maryland, succeeding Venia M. Kellar. Born on a farm near Troup, Tex., Mrs. Low received her bachelor of science degree from North Texas State College, Denton, Tex., in 1934 and went immediately into home demonstration work. She later studied at the College of Home Economics at Cornell University where she received an M.S. in home management and adult education.

Her work in Texas has included 8 years as a home demonstration agent, working directly with farm people in her counties. She also taught home economics in a Texas high school from 1940 to 1943, but following her husband's death, returned to home demonstration work.

After developing an extensive landscaping program on a county basis, she served as an extension landscape specialist for 1 year in working with farm families and home demonstration agents. For 4 years she has been State home management specialist in Texas.

The Job Ahead For Agriculture

BYRON T. SHAW

The problem of our food supply in light of our growing population is so important that we thought our readers would be interested in what ARA Administrator Byron T. Shaw had to say on the subject during his recent testimony before the House Subcommittee on Agricultural Appropriations. So we asked Dr. Shaw to give us the gist of his statement.

WE HAVE a big job ahead of us in agriculture.

The Census Bureau has estimated the population of the United States in 1975 under moderately favorable conditions at 190,000,000 people. To furnish agricultural products to this many people at rates provided to our current population will require additional agricultural production equivalent to the products from 115 million acres of cropland at 1950 yields.

By 1975 we can expect to have about 15 million more acres of land released to provide products for domestic human consumption that are now needed to provide feed for horses and mules. The projected plans of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Engineers, and the Department of Agriculture would indicate that we may bring an additional 30 million acres of cropland into full production by 1975 through the routes of irrigation, drainage, land clearing, flood control, and so forth. Subtracting this 45 million acres from the 115 million additional acres required leaves a deficit of some 70 million acres of cropland at 1950 yields. Perhaps we can make up some of this deficit by importing more or exporting fewer agricultural products. However, when we consider our situation in the world, the possibilities in this direction do not seem large.

It seems to me that our real opportunities for making up the deficit lie in the direction of further improvements in the efficiency of production on farms and improved utilization and better distribution of products produced. If we can accept this assumption, the size of the task ahead of us will be better appreciated when we realize that the sum total of all of our improvements in production

between the period 1935-39 and 1950 is equivalent to the production from 64 million acres of cropland at 1950 yields. These improvements included hybrid corn, nearly three times as much fertilizer used, DDT and other insecticides, more soil conservation, and many others.

The job ahead requires the best efforts of all of us. We know that the apples that can be reached from the ground have already been picked. We must improve the soil; we will have to eliminate many of the ravages of insects and diseases; we must bring about further improvements in all of our varieties of crops; we must develop better breeds of livestock and better feeding methods. In other words, we need increased efficiency on the farm in general.



If we are to meet the challenge we must increase productivity of our soils.

But, in addition, we will have to make improvements in our marketing and distributive channels: We must cut out the waste that now exists; we must develop better methods of storage to prevent waste; we must find food uses for the skimmed milk that is not now being used for human food; we will have to cut down waste in household use of goods. In

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The challenge: For every four there will be one more.

Science Flashes



What's in the offing on scientific research, as seen by Ernest G. Moore
Agricultural Research Administration

Potatoes Like It Warm

New potatoes keep better at temperatures as high as 70 degrees than at temperatures that vary from low to high, say ARA potato specialists. This is contrary to the established practice in some areas of using refrigeration to prevent decay and preserve the fresh appearance of new potatoes during transit and storage. The problem comes when the potatoes are shifted from the low temperatures to the rather high temperatures that often prevail in market channels. Although they may look fine when they are taken out of storage, injuries such as skinning or bruising become pronounced at the higher temperatures.

The experiments showed that potatoes stored at 70 degrees for 2 weeks had less surface browning and better appearance than those stored initially at 40 or 50 degrees and then shifted to 70 degrees. This research finding, if adapted to commercial potato storage and transportation, could save hundreds of thousands of dollars in reduced refrigeration costs and losses from damaged potatoes.

Locker Plants Add Kitchens

May is the month farm families over the country begin eating fresh fruits and vegetables. As these products come from the garden in ever increasing variety and quantity, housewives have the job of putting up the surplus for next winter.

On the other hand, May is the beginning of a slack season for community locker plants, because most of the meat processing has been completed and locker customers have used up last year's fruits and vegetables. This often means empty lockers and idle workers.

ARA engineers, working with State experiment stations, have come up

with a suggestion that would save valuable food and benefit everybody concerned—a locker kitchen for processing fruits and vegetables. County and home demonstration agents can be a big help in planning and operating these kitchens.

At a commercial locker plant in Michigan, where a trial kitchen was installed, more than 42,000 pints of fruits and vegetables were processed (a 300-percent increase over the previous year). Patrons were invited to do their own processing in the kitchen free of charge, and many took advantage of the better facilities and the expert supervision provided at the plant. Some turned the entire job over to the plant staff. Typical of the attitude of the customers was the housewife's remark that "I planned to put up only one bushel of asparagus, but the kitchen makes

the work so easy that I am going to get another bushel."

The operator had practically no locker cancellations and had to construct additional overflow bins to supplement the locker space. He made additional profits from increased sharp freezing for home storage, freezing containers, and fruit and vegetables—both processed and fresh—sold over the counter. In addition, he kept his workers profitably employed the year round.

A trial kitchen set up in Georgia has met with the same enthusiasm and success. The operator has had to add 60 new lockers to take care of the new business.

Engineers have worked out requirements for equipment, space, and estimated costs of operating such kitchens, and a number of operators have already installed them in their plants.



Housewives like the good facilities and supervision at the locker kitchen. A processing kitchen helps to equalize the work load during the year.

Neighbor Groups

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ers on planning committees or in other groups.

Leaders work best in their own groups, and when separated from their groups might lose the respect and leadership of the group members. Sometimes a leader may have to oppose you or go slow in order not to get too far ahead of his group. You can understand such resistance on his part and realize that it may not be as bad as you think.

It is important to meet a group from time to time on their own farms, but it is better to let them work out the arrangements for such meetings and ask you to attend. Be careful that your farm visiting is not with the leaders all of the time. Visit the others, too, but be sure the leader knows about it; don't bypass the leaders. Check with the persons when writing news stories or radio programs about what they have done on their farms. And when you write about a *group* activity, try to mention the names of all the families in the group.

After one has identified and been working with neighbor groups and leaders in an area for some time, and it has become generally understood and accepted as an accustomed method, then you can be bolder about referring to them publicly and including them in other parts of your program organization set-up on a little more formal basis. But this should be done only after careful thought as to when and how.

Extension services, although greatly limited in how closely they can work with individual farmers and small groups, have accumulated much experience working with volunteer leaders and local communities. And, more and more extension agents are aware of and have been working with so-called "natural" neighbor groups and leaders, as here described. Application of the "neighbor group and leader" idea was speeded up when more attention was given to finding ways by which the membership and leadership of such groups could be more systematically determined.

Thousands of neighbor groups and leaders have been successfully identified and worked with by the Soil Conservation Service during the last 5 or 6 years.

Although the "neighbor group and leader" idea does not by any means represent the only group relationship and channel of communication among people, it does represent a very significant one which probably applies to at least certain portions of most counties and could be used in some way on most programs. Therefore, it does merit special attention among adult education and service methods. Much has been accomplished in developing and applying the idea. It can become still more widespread in the work of various agencies. It is something on which agencies might well work together. For the same principles and methods apply for motivating and teaching most all improved farm, home, and community practices. And the same neighbor groups would be the ones to work with in most instances.

But when more than one agency concerns themselves with the same neighbor groups and leaders, they must do so with great care, lest the informality and naturalness of neighbor group functioning which is the very crux of the principle, be shattered.

- MARION HEPWORTH, a veteran of 27 years' service on the Idaho extension staff, retired January 1. Miss Hepworth was home demonstration leader for 26 years. During her last year with the university she was a studies specialist.

From the early days of extension in Idaho until her retirement Miss Hepworth was an aggressive figure in a crusade to make Idaho farm products popular over a wide area. At the same time she was playing a leading part in organizing county and State home demonstration councils she carried the ball for Idaho potatoes, wool, lamb, apples, beet sugar, and other products. She was also a source of inspiration to farm women seeking cultural advancement. Since her retirement Miss Hepworth has been traveling in Colorado and Texas. She will live at Burlingame, Kans.

Time for Camping

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Bring campers a fresh experience. We had a Danish girl whose presence was very refreshing for the whole camp.

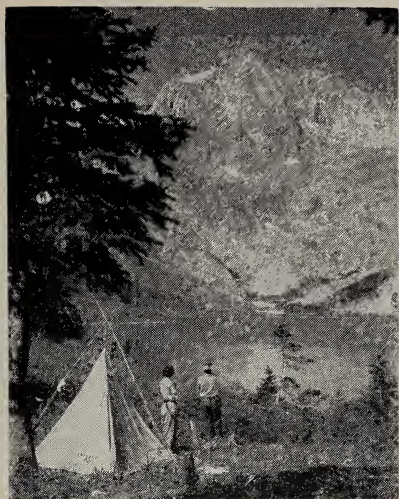
Offer 4-H counselor training, experience. Provide in your camp counselor-training experiences for 4-H campers. All 4-H counselors should be 4-H campers; girls who did not attend 4-H camp begin as counselors-in-training. The best counselor training is obtained at camp assisting senior counselors and taking charge of camp activities or serving as cabin counselors.

Camp activities strengthen the 4-H program—camp activities strengthen our regular 4-H program because we have daily regular 4-H activities such as carpentry (learning to use tools), painting (learning to mix color and make designs), health and cleanliness emphasized with good grooming and care of hair, nails and skin, and these activities are practical at camp. We emphasize outdoor living with cook-outs, party refreshments for evening programs, and a camp banquet. 4-H ceremonies, vespers, and recreation are included.

Teach by the demonstration method. Set up exhibits and coach campers to give demonstrations—ask your counselors to teach their classes by the demonstration method and keep daily records of the demonstrations given. Train girls to give demonstrations and put up exhibits. Plan for exhibits at the end of the week for parents and campers. Have the campers put on demonstrations for campers and for parents.

Camping offers experiences in democratic living and leadership developments which are of great worth to our 4-H Club movement.

- In the last 8 years, 1,522 persons from 76 different countries have come to this country to study extension methods. Beginning with 35, the number of students increased to 520 in 1951 and may well be twice that number in 1952.



Snowmass Lake and Snowmass Mountain, White River National Forest, Colo. Photograph taken by Jay Higgins, who recently retired from the Forest Service.

National Forests Welcome You

JOHN SIEKER

Chief, Division of Recreation and Lands, Forest Service, U.S.D.A.

appropriateness, and a minimum of rules are the keynotes. The types of recreation are encouraged that are suitable in the forest.

The 4,500 camp and picnic places in the forests have 43,000 family size units. They can accommodate 280,000 persons at one time. In 1951 they received 3 million visits. Some of these recreation areas are only for picnicking, but many of them can be used for overnight camping as well.

The Forest Service has a policy of encouraging the building of camps for the use of organizations such as 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, and the like, to enjoy summer vacations in the outdoors. The Forest Service has 65 such camps which are rented to various organizations for 2- and 3-week periods during the summer. They generally include bunkhouses, mess hall, and a recreation building. Running water and electricity are usually available. In 1951, visits that totaled 242,000 days' use were made to them.

The Forest Service also has available sites on which organizations of this type can build their own camps, and the charge for the use of the land is nominal. There are 404 such camps in existence with a capacity of 37,000 people at one time. These camps are built by such organizations as 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, cities, and counties.

At some of the larger national forest recreation areas a small charge for camping and picnicking is made to reimburse the United States for the cost of keeping the area clean and usable. Some charge areas are operated by concessionaires who act under a special-use permit; others are operated by the Forest Service.

For those who desire free camping or picnicking, there are many areas which are equally attractive but at

which there may not be regular and systematic clean-up.

Because of different conditions, anyone who is planning a trip to a national forest should find out in advance what the local conditions are, what facilities are available, and what equipment is recommended by writing to the forest supervisor of the national forest he wishes to visit.

The Job Ahead

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short, it will be necessary to have better utilization and improved distribution of all the products produced.

A simple way to size up the job and compare it with what we have done in the past is to look at it on a year-to-year basis. Science and technology currently are giving us the equivalent of about 5 million acres of cropland each year. But that is not enough. It takes about 3 acres of cropland equivalent to provide food and fiber for each person. Since we are growing at the rate of 2½ million people a year, we need to add the equivalent of 7½ million acres of cropland each year instead of 5 million.

I am not pessimistic. I think we will get the job done all right, but it will require still greater efforts by farmers, extension workers, scientists, and all others interested in the welfare of the Nation.

But if you think this job looks easy, remember we have been talking about present diets. Most of us would like to see further improvement.

• ALICE P. TRIMBLE, home demonstration leader, Hawaii, was featured in a recent Sunday supplement of an Island newspaper.

EVERY YEAR Americans make 30 million visits to the national forests. They come, they say, to picnic, or (in order of preference) to fish, ski, hunt, camp, swim, hike, ride, look, and sit. They come from every State; some are tourists seeing America; others are out for a day or a weekend. Some want to do only one thing; many want to combine various of the pleasures at hand: Pitching camp in a shady spot, fishing in early morning and late afternoon, hiking in the forenoon, swimming between times, sitting around the campfire at night, and sleeping like a log in the cool of the night. But whatever they want to do, all get a sincere welcome.

The men who supervise the forests and work in them believe that recreation is a major value of the forests, that the woods and mountains should be enjoyed by their owners, the citizens of the United States, and that all have an obligation to care for the forests they have come to enjoy.

The 30 million visits a year (which aggregate 44 million days of use) create problems of sanitation, fire protection, and public welfare; because that many people could easily destroy the environment they have sought out, some regulations and preparations are necessary for the people's enjoyment and comfort and the forests' protection. In them, simplicity,

ELECTRIC FARMING GETS MORE TO MARKET



Although 80 percent of our farms have electricity, most of them have received it within the past 5 years. Its use as a production tool on the farm is still new to most farmers. The country's need for increased food and fibre production makes it essential that farmers learn how to use electric power to save labor, cut losses, increase income, and get more to market. Developing this potential is the aim of the Nation-wide

Electric Farming Campaign now being spearheaded by REA and rural electric co-ops. Electrical farm equipment manufacturers, dealers, power suppliers and other groups are supporting it. Because electricity contributes to better farming and better farm living, this campaign offers extension workers another opportunity to serve farmers and the Nation.